

FROM AN OFFICER WHO WISHES TO REMAIN NAMELESS FOR FEAR OF RETALIATION AND HARASSMENT

I had the pleasure of meeting Norm Wheeler while I was a Detective and Norm was the Defense Attorney in a case I had filed charges on. The charges later went to trial and to make a long story short, Norm's client walked away from that trial free of charges. This was the beginning of many things Norm taught me.

Norm began his career in September of 2015. I was not sure how to feel about this, considering Norm had done his job so well, I lost my case against him. Him and I broke the ice when I was investigating a crime late one night and it just happened to involve his prior defendant, we still get a good laugh about that call.

Norm wasn't just an Attorney, he was a teacher. If me or my guys brought in poorly written reports, Norm would scrunch up his nose and ask if he could make a suggestion. Norm wanted us to be the best, write the best and testify the best. If it meant Norm spent hours correcting our grammar or hours telling us his thoughts on how to make the case stronger, he would do it, with all the patience in the world.

I became a Sergeant during Norm's employment with the D.A's Office and because of Norm's guidance myself and the Detectives were praised by Defense Attorney's around the state for how well we did our jobs. Norm was the reason we had excelled because he cared enough to tell us when we were wrong and show us how to fix the issues. No one has ever cared so deeply as Norm. Norm was the hardest working Attorney and the most compassionate that I have ever worked with in the last 19 years.

In 2019 Norm prepared to run for District Attorney. Norm had my full support because I knew what he brought to the office as an Attorney and I knew he was the best man for the job. Unfortunately, Norm lost the election which was the beginning of the darkest times I have seen with the District Attorney's Office. The previous District Attorney was always fully supportive of Law Enforcement despite our odds.

I met Mike in a meeting in 2020 which was the start of a very estranged relationship with the D.A's Office. Meetings with Mike got worse every time. Mike made it clear that he had no respect for women. During this time I witnessed first hand his violent outbursts and anger. Prior to Mike coming into office being a Cop meant something, we took pride in our jobs and strived with the District Attorney's Office to hold people accountable. During Mike's tenure we have lost our relationship with the D.A's Office. Cases are plead out or dismissed. Attorney's are no longer reaching out to Officer's on their cases. The desire to do our jobs is tested everyday because we all know the case will never see trial and those who should be held accountable are being let go. Mike's hate for those who supported Norm has bled onto his staff, who I am certain live in fear that they might lose their job if they don't act in accordance with his vengeance.

I've witnessed Mike Renteria try to break women and ALMOST succeed. Women who have held high positions for many years, successfully, have been torn apart by Mike. Mike has made these women question their worth and abilities and used outbursts as a means to intimidate them. At the time of my interactions with Mike I had about 16 years in Law Enforcement, I was high ranking and struggled to advance because I was a woman and statistically, was destined to fail. Mike's violent angry outburst with me, cut me down to my core. I recently saw a post in which a woman was stating that Norm wasn't who he claimed he was, let me assure you if you support Mike, you are only a pawn in his game. I have never seen so much dishonesty and poor ethics than that of Mike Renteria. Mike refuses to work with us and instead works against us. We have tried to facilitate meetings he refuses to attend and worse refuses to speak to most of us when he sees us in public. Mike Renteria doesn't support women and I have personally felt his unfair treatment. This isn't about Norm's political status because either party should feel passionately about how a woman is treated in the workplace and I assure you no one desires to have their daughter, sister, mother to be treated the way I have seen Mike treat not just me, but several others.

Norm Wheeler is the change we need. Norm cares deeply about his job and those he works with and he has truly been missed. Norm is fair and doesn't take his positions and use them for power. Norm does what's right, not just as an Attorney but as a human being, you'll never meet a better one.